

Historic Mansfield Mural Gets Major Restoration for Town's 250th Anniversary

MANSFIELD, MA - September 16, 2024:

Keep Mansfield Beautiful, a non-profit organization dedicated to making Mansfield a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful place to live, work, and visit, is embarking on a major restoration project to restore, preserve, and refresh a beloved local landmark: a 462-foot long mural depicting the town's history.

The mural, designed and painted by local artist Ian Gaudreau, was completed on September 15, 2015 after years of dedicated work across Keep Mansfield Beautiful, the Mansfield Music & Arts Society, Mansfield Historical Society, Mansfield High School, and countless volunteers and financial supporters.

Over the past decade, the mural has become a beloved cornerstone of Mansfield's community spirit and heritage. However, time and the New England elements have taken their toll, leading to deterioration in certain areas. To ensure the mural's continued preservation and enjoyment for future generations, Keep Mansfield Beautiful has launched a comprehensive restoration project in partnership with the Town of Mansfield.

"We're thrilled to be restoring this iconic mural, which has become a cherished symbol of Mansfield's rich history and community spirit," said Jeff Ward, Chairman of Keep Mansfield Beautiful. "We're excited to see it preserved for years to come, representing a town that's committed to being a vibrant place to live, work, and visit."

The mural restoration project will commence in late September 2024 and will be conducted in phases. Led by the mural's creator, Ian Gaudreau, a Providence-based visual artist who is originally from Mansfield, the first phase will involve a general cleaning effort, with local art students participating to help remove dirt and wear. Subsequent phases will focus on more intensive spot cleaning, priming, and updating specific sections of the artwork. The project aims to be celebrated in 2025 aligned with Mansfield's 250th anniversary.

"With my roots in Mansfield, it was a privilege to create this mural, and it's amazing to see how well it has held up over the years," said artist Ian Gaudreau. "I'm honored to restore it now and help keep it a meaningful part of the community."

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The mural is located on Route 106 in the center of Mansfield adjacent to the MBTA and Amtrak train station, making it a prominent visual centerpiece for thousands of commuters and visitors traveling to Providence, Boston, New York City, and beyond daily. Mansfield is also home to the Xfinity Center, a major music venue that brings in over 600,000 visitors annually for concerts and events, as well as an expanding bike trail connecting Mansfield to several local towns.

The restoration project is a testament to Keep Mansfield Beautiful's commitment to enhancing its public spaces. The organization encourages the community to get involved in supporting this project and ensuring the mural's continued legacy.

To learn more about the mural restoration project, its phases, and how you can contribute to its success, please visit Keep Mansfield Beautiful and follow the organization on Facebook and Instagram to see the journey unfold.

About Keep Mansfield Beautiful

Founded during the first Great American Cleanup in May 2008, Keep Mansfield Beautiful empowers residents, businesses, and local leaders to create a greener, cleaner community. With a focus on litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling, and beautification, the organization engages citizens of all ages in projects that enhance public spaces and foster environmental stewardship. Through sustainable landscaping, community greening, and educational outreach, Keep Mansfield Beautiful strives to make Mansfield a better place to live, work, and play. Volunteer opportunities are available, and you can connect with them on Facebook and Instagram.

About Artist Ian Gaudrau

Ian Gaudreau is a Providence-based visual artist specializing in large-scale public murals and fine art painting. Originally from Mansfield, MA, Gaudreau has deep ties to the community, where his work, including the iconic Mansfield Mural, has become a local landmark. A graduate of Mansfield High School, Gaudreau dedicated his work on the mural to his high school art teacher, Lee Anne Withelmsen, who first inspired him to become an artist. With a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, his work blends intricate narrative techniques with bold, immersive designs, aiming to connect communities to their histories and shared experiences through visual storytelling. His murals can be found in public spaces across New England, earning recognition for their cultural significance and aesthetic impact.